

B. PARTIAL INDULGENCES: The faithful can gain a **Partial Indulgence** of:

1. **Seventy Years and Seventy Quarantines** EVERY TIME they say the **FRANCISCAN CROWN** on any day of the week except Saturday.

2. **One Hundred Years** every time they say it on any **Saturday** of the year.

3. **Two Hundred Years** when they say it on the holidays of obligation.

4. **Three Hundred Years** when they say it on any feast of the **Bl. Virgin** not mentioned above for the **Plenary Indulgences**.

5. **Ten Years** for every good work they perform for the honor of God or for the love of their neighbor, provided they carry the rosary about on their person and often recite it.

6. **Ten Years** every time they say **Seven Hail Marys** in honor of the **Seven Joys** of the **Bl. Virgin**, provided they carry the rosary about on their person and often recite it.

NOTE: All these indulgences, except the one for the hour of death, can be applied to the **Poor Souls**.

METHOD OF SAYING THE FRANCISCAN CROWN

In order to recite the **FRANCISCAN CROWN** properly, say **one Our Father** and **ten Hail Marys** in honor of each of the **Seven Joys** of the **Bl. Virgin**; namely: 1. The **Annunciation**; 2. The **Visitation**; 3. The **Nativity** of Our Lord; 4. The **Adoration** of the **Magi**; 5. The **Finding** of **Jesus** in the **Temple**; 6. The **Resurrection** of Our Lord. 7. The **Assumption** of the **Bl. Virgin**.

On finishing the seventh decade, say **two Hail Marys** in honor of the seventy-two years Our Lady is said to have lived on earth. Then lastly say **one Our Father** and **one Hail Mary** for the intention of the **Pope** to gain the indulgences.

NOTE: To gain the various indulgences attached to the recitation of the **FRANCISCAN CROWN**, it is not necessary to meditate on the various mysteries, as is the case with the **Dominican Rosary**, but one needs merely to say the **one Our Father** and the **ten Hail Marys** in honor of each mystery commemorated. Moreover, the **FRANCISCAN CROWN** may be interrupted at will, as long as the entire rosary of seven decades is recited on one and the same day. Thus the **FRANCISCAN CROWN** is the easiest rosary to say, and at the same time is enriched with more indulgences than any other rosary.

CUM PERMISSU SUPERIORUM

Franciscan Herald, 1434 W. 51st Street, Chicago, Ill.



The **FRANCISCAN CROWN**, called also the **ROSARY OF THE SEVEN JOYS OF THE BL. VIRGIN**, dates back to the year 1422. The famous Franciscan historian, Fr. Luke Wadding, relates that a very pious young man, who had been admitted to the Franciscan Order in that year, had, previous to his reception, been accustomed to adorn a statue of the **Bl. Virgin** with a wreath of fresh and beautiful flowers as a mark of his piety and devotion. Not being able to continue this practice in the novitiate, he repined very much, and finally decided to quit the cloister and return to the world.

Our Lady then appeared to him and prevented him from carrying out his purpose. "Do not be sad and cast down, my son," she said sweetly, "because you are no longer permitted to place wreaths of flowers on my statue. I shall teach you to change this pious practice into one that will be far more pleasing to me and far more meritorious to your soul. In place of the flowers that soon wither and can not always be found, you can weave for me a crown from the flowers of your prayers that will always remain fresh and can always be had."

"Recite one Our Father and ten Hail Marys in honor of the joy I experienced when the angel announced to me the Incarnation of the Son of God. Repeat these same prayers in honor of the joy I felt on visiting my Cousin Elizabeth. Say them again in honor of the supreme happiness that filled my heart on giving birth to Christ the Savior, without pain and without the loss of my virginity. Recite the same prayers a fourth time in honor of the joy I felt when presenting my Divine Son to the adoration of the Magi. Repeat them for the fifth time in honor of the joy that thrilled my soul when, after seeking Jesus with deep sorrow for three days, I found Him at last among the doctors in the Temple. Sixthly, recite the one Our Father and the ten Hail Marys in honor of the joy I experienced on beholding my Divine Son gloriously risen from the grave on Easter Sunday. Finally, for the seventh time, repeat these prayers in honor of my own most glorious and joyful Assumption into heaven, when I was crowned Queen of heaven and earth. If you recite these prayers as I have directed, rest assured, dear son, you will weave for me a most beautiful and acceptable crown and will merit for yourself innumerable graces."

When Our Lady had disappeared, the overjoyed novice at once began to recite the prayers in honor of her Seven Joys, as she had directed. While he was deeply engrossed in this devotion, the novice master happened to pass by and, behold! he saw an angel weaving a marvelous wreath of roses and after every tenth rose inserting a golden lily. When the wreath was finished, the angel placed it on the head of the praying novice. The master then demanded under holy obedience that the youth tell him the meaning of the vision. Joyfully, yet fearfully, the novice complied. The good priest was so impressed with what he had seen and heard, that he immediately made it known to his brethren. Thus the practice of reciting the Crown of the Seven Joys of the Bl. Virgin soon spread over the entire Franciscan Order and became one of the favorite devotions of the friars.

Later, it became customary to add two Hail Marys in honor of the seventy-two years that Our Lady is said to have lived on earth, and one Our Father and Hail Mary for the intention of the Pope to gain the indulgences.

INDULGENCES ATTACHED TO THE RECITATION OF THE FRANCISCAN CROWN

Members of the Three Orders of St. Francis, including the members of the Third Order Secular, gain a **PLENARY INDULGENCE every time** they recite the **FRANCISCAN CROWN**, without any other conditions and without the use of beads. This Plenary Indulgence can be applied to the Poor Souls. The faithful, who are not members of the Third Order, must have rosaries specially blessed for the purpose by a Franciscan or other priest having the faculty.

In the public recitation of the **FRANCISCAN CROWN** in the churches of the Three Orders of St. Francis, the faithful need not have a blessed rosary in order to gain the indulgences. In like manner, if two or more say this rosary in common (as for instance, at family prayers), it suffices that the leader holds a blessed rosary in his hand.

The indulgences which the faithful can gain by praying the **FRANCISCAN CROWN** are the most abundant granted to any rosary.

A. PLENARY INDULGENCES. The faithful can gain:

1. **A Plenary Indulgence** for taking part in the **PUBLIC RECITATION** of the **FRANCISCAN CROWN** in any church of the Three Orders of St. Francis, just the same as the members of the Franciscan Orders. (N. B. This Plenary Indulgence supposes that one is in the state of grace.)

2. **A Plenary Indulgence** if, after Confession and Communion, (no other conditions), they recite the **FRANCISCAN CROWN** on the following feasts: Christmas (Dec. 25); Epiphany (Jan. 6); Sunday during the Octave of Epiphany; Easter; Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8); Annunciation (Mar. 25); Purification (Feb. 2); Visitation (July 2); Assumption (Aug. 15); Feast of the Seven Joys of the Bl. Virgin (Aug. 22); Nativity of the Bl. Virgin (Sep. 8).

3. **A Plenary Indulgence** once a month on any day after Confession and Communion, if they say the **FRANCISCAN CROWN** every Saturday.

4. **A Plenary Indulgence** in the hour of death on the usual conditions if one has the rosary in his possession and has prayed it frequently.